

Mortuary Guidance Job Aid: Postmortem Preparation in a Hospital Room

Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) must be worn while performing these tasks.

1. Turn on thermal sealer.
2. Use digital camera or mobile phone to take a photograph of the deceased's face. Send photo via Wi-Fi, e-mail, or text message to site manager through secure means. Decontaminate or properly discard camera or mobile phone.
3. Position gurney with three pre-opened body bags next to hospital bed.
4. Pull bed sheet(s) up and around body. Do not wash or clean body. Do not remove inserted medical equipment from body.
5. Remove first bag from gurney. Gently roll body wrapped in sheets while sliding first bag under body.
6. Complete transfer of body to first bag. Zip up bag. Minimize air in bag.
7. Disinfect gloved hands using alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR). If any areas of PPE have visible contamination, disinfect with an EPA-registered disinfectant wipe.
8. Disinfect outside of first bag with an EPA-registered hospital disinfectant.
9. Transfer first bag with body to gurney, placing it on top of second bag.
10. Disinfect gloved hands using ABHR.
11. Fold second bag around first bag and heat seal approximately 2" from edges. Remove air from second bag. Heat seal bag again approximately 1" below initial seal and heat seal diagonally across corners. Use scissors to trim off any excess material along seam. Turn off or unplug thermal sealer. Decontaminate thermal sealer before it is removed from hot zone or reused.
12. Disinfect outside of second bag with EPA-registered hospital disinfectant.
13. Disinfect gloved hands using ABHR.
14. Work third bag around second bag. Zip up third bag. Zip tie the zipper shut.
15. Disinfect gloved hands using ABHR.
16. Wheel gurney to decontamination area.
17. Decontaminate surface of body bag with EPA-registered hospital disinfectant.
 - Begin by applying the hospital disinfectant to top of bag and any exposed areas of gurney's cot.
 - Roll bag to one side to decontaminate half of bottom of bag and newly exposed portion of gurney's cot.
 - Repeat with other side of bag and gurney.
 - After visible soil has been removed with EPA-registered disinfectant wipe, reapply EPA-registered hospital disinfectant and allow sufficient contact time, as specified by manufacturer.
18. Disinfect surfaces of gurney from handles to wheels with an EPA-registered hospital disinfectant.
19. Disinfect gloved hands using ABHR.
20. Push gurney so only gurney and decontaminated body bag enter cold zone. Do not enter cold zone. A new set of workers will receive the body.
21. Proceed to PPE removal area.

For more information: Guidance for Safe Handling of Human Remains in U.S. Hospitals and Mortuaries.
<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/healthcare-us/hospitals/handling-human-remains.html>